

6-2006

Update, Summer 2006

Cedarville University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/advancement_update



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cedarville University, "Update, Summer 2006" (2006). *Update*. 11.
https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/advancement_update/11

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Update by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@cedarville.edu.

In this Issue

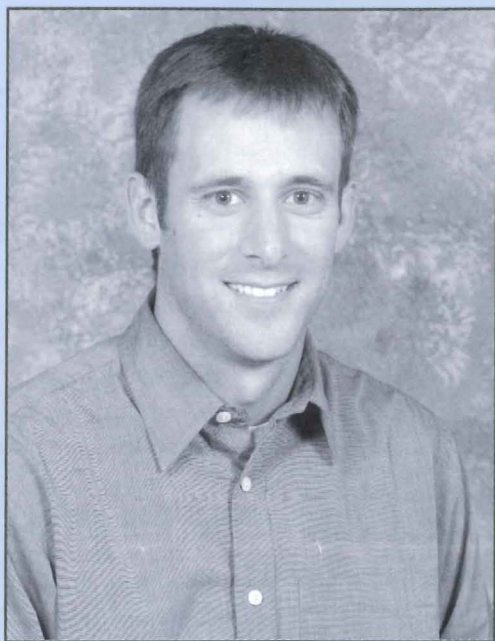
Making Disciples Who Make Disciples	1
The Salt and Light Scholarship	4
A Legacy of Leadership	3
A Letter from Autumn West '06	5
Q & A with Bob Rohm	6

Update

A Cedarville University Publication

Summer 2006

Annual Fund Office



There is so much opportunity for college students to be passive — to come, sit, listen, and leave ... Small group ministry changes the focus to "Let's talk about your life and what God's Word is saying to you."

Mark Irving '94

Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

Each week, more than 600 students meet in small groups for Bible study, prayer, encouragement, growth, and intentional discipleship.

This is not a new idea. In fact, it is rather old. Small groups of believers gather to study the Word together, share meals together, serve together, and walk through life together in community. More than a description of the early church in Acts, this picture provides a glimpse of student life today at Cedarville University. Although a relative newcomer to the division of Christian Ministries, discipleship ministries is meeting a need among the student body and gaining momentum.

The appeal of small groups is not surprising given the widespread small group ministries at work in many local churches. In a student body topping 3,100, small groups provide an opportunity for students to not only make friends and be involved in a group, but also to be accountable and take a more active role in their own spiritual development.

Discipleship ministries began in 2001 under the leadership of alumnus Mark Irving. Mark works closely with 12 students who form the Cedarville University Discipleship Council (DC). These students, both women and men, commit to weekly meetings with Mark throughout the school year. They begin by studying the Gospels together, delving into what it really means to follow Christ. Each student in the DC forms their own small group and leads a Bible study with five to eight students. The intention is to train these small group members to then form and lead their own small groups. This year more than 600 students were active in discipleship ministries with 82 group leaders and 541 group participants.

Mark Irving and Cody Fisher, a member of the DC, spoke with *Update* about discipleship ministries and its role in shaping the spiritual climate of Cedarville University.

Mark Irving '94 Director of Discipleship Ministries

My first encounter with intentional discipleship came in my freshman year at Cedarville. I was living in Lawlor, and my roommate and I were not getting along. I was pretty discouraged until I met Eric Adnams, a fifth-year senior and a resident advisor in Palmer. I told him that I was unhappy with my living situation, and I learned that he had an open room in his unit in Palmer. He talked to the dean and arranged for me to move to The Hill. When I arrived at my new room, I found on my desk a copy of Chuck Swindoll's book *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*, along with a note suggesting that we could work through the devotionals together

(continued on page 2)

(continued from front page)

that quarter. It meant a lot that someone wanted to spend time with me and invest in me. I began reading the Bible for myself for the first time, and I really began to grow spiritually.

Eric is the one who first said to me, "Hey, Mark, have you ever thought of going into ministry?" That question floored me. I thought, "Who would want to hire me? How could I support myself?" But he was the one to plant the seed that ministry was something that I could actually do.

Through the next several years at Cedarville, I became involved in Christian ministries through Open Heirs and an MIS trip, and I traveled during the school year with a puppet ministry team.

As a senior, I was nominated to serve with the Advisory (or "Ad") Seven. We worked closely with Harold "PG" Green to plan and carry out Campus Fellowship worship services on Sunday mornings and evenings and on Wednesday nights. That experience gave me the confidence that God could indeed use me in a public role.

It was during that year that I began to develop a series of small groups centered on the book of Philippians, and we received a lot of positive feedback from students about that process. There is so much opportunity for college students to be passive — to come, sit, listen, and leave — whether in class, in chapel, or in church. Small group ministry changes the focus to "Let's talk about your life and what God's Word is saying to you."

By 2001, the Christian ministries staff was considering the next steps for their program, and the idea of connecting students for intentional discipleship became a priority. The reason I am back at Cedarville today is because of what happened in my life that freshman year; it was that powerful. I began to think, "What if this was intentional? What if we found a group of older students who wanted to invest in younger students?" I knew there was real potential in this idea of discipleship ministries.

I have photos of all of my DC teams on the wall in my office, and so many of them are now involved in ministries of their own. When I look at these photos, I know he is at Dallas Seminary, she is doing campus ministry with InterVarsity, she is a missionary in Thailand, he's teaching English in China. It is wonderful for me and my wife, Meredith, to see these former students taking what they learned here and investing themselves in the lives of others wherever they live and work.

I heard Howard Hendricks say, "The two most important things on this planet are God's Word and people. To leave a

legacy that lasts, take God's Word and invest it in people." That is why I am doing what I am doing today.

Cody Fisher '06

Discipleship Council Member

It has been neat to see how God has used Cedarville in my life. I followed my sisters, Jenny '98 and Noella '99, and my brother, Ben '02, to Cedarville because I had seen firsthand the impact this University had on their lives. I considered other schools closer to home, but I chose Cedarville for the strong sense of community and spiritual atmosphere. The others just did not compare.

People here love the Lord and want to live for Him. I have seen this throughout the student body — genuine people actively pursuing God. What I have witnessed among my friends and classmates is a commitment to take ownership of their faith. This

is not my parents' faith; this is my walk with God.

I became involved in discipleship ministries as a sophomore by leading a small group of freshmen guys. As a small group leader, I have led discussion groups on *Don't Waste Your Life* by John Piper and *Lord, Change my Attitude* by James McDonald. Piper is one of my favorite authors, and his book presents a good challenge to college students.

Shortly after we finished the McDonald book, the

author came to Cedarville to speak in chapel. That was a nice tie-in because whole groups of students were reading and discussing the same material, and we were all asking the same questions. We were all on the same page.

I knew Mark Irving had a heart for ministry, so the chance to work with and learn from Mark was a big incentive to be part of DC my junior and senior years. I have been involved in many activities over the last four years, but DC has probably been the most important thing I have been part of at Cedarville.

Our primary focus in DC, and in the small groups we lead, is to live out Christ-centered community. We pray for one another, encourage one another, spend time together, celebrate birthdays, and share times of prayer and praise together. As a group, we have dealt with several tough family situations. One of the council members lost his father this year, and the group really came together to show him a lot of support.

Being part of discipleship ministries has really shown me what a community of believers should look like, and it has built up



The 2006 Cedarville University Discipleship Council (Cody Fisher shown second from right in top row)

(continued on page 5)

A Legacy of Leadership in Deferred Giving

While we generally think of leaders as being visible and vocal, some lead quietly by example. Some lead by thinking ahead of their time.

The Legacy Circle is a group of forward-thinking leaders who have chosen to honor Cedarville University as the beneficiary of a deferred giving arrangement or scholarship endowment. By making a deferred gift, these visionaries have not only provided for themselves and their family, but have also secured a portion of the future of Cedarville University.

A deferred gift, usually made in the form of an annuity or a charitable remainder trust, is an irrevocable gift to Cedarville University. The donor makes the gift in exchange for the current benefits of an immediate income tax deduction, a lifetime income stream for self and spouse, and avoidance of capital gains taxes. A gift made with appreciated assets actually costs the

donor less than giving a cash gift. Gifts of highly appreciated, yet underutilized assets — such as real property or growth stocks that pay little or no dividend — can create significant, lifetime income for the donor.

When the gift matures, Cedarville University receives the trust or annuity principal. With prudent investment during the term of the gift agreement, the value of the deferred gift is often larger than the original gift, even after the payment of income to the donor and spouse.

We invite you to investigate the Legacy Circle at Cedarville University to learn how you can make a gift today that provides for you, your family, and the Cedarville family.

Visit our Web site at www.cedarville.edu/gifilegacy for more information about this exciting leadership opportunity.

A Lifetime of Leadership Clarence Gray '37

One of Clarence Gray's greatest joys is meeting outstanding Cedarville students. He is convinced that our graduates can influence America's culture — beginning in our nation's public schools. His desire is to help prepare public school educators who have exceptional intelligence, passion for teaching, and "personal courage in standing for the Word of God and the cause of Christ."

With serious intent to see America's public schools strengthened, Clarence initiated The Gray-Paxson Scholarship in 1997 that covers up to 75% of tuition for education majors. He then established a charitable remainder trust that will ultimately endow the scholarship.

After graduating in 1937 with an education degree, Clarence hoped to become a teacher. That plan was interrupted by World War II, which led him into military service and a 13-year career in the U.S. Air Force.

While in the military, Clarence earned an MBA from The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business. He went on to an employee relations position for Cincinnati's General Electric aircraft division.

In the 1970s, Clarence became vice president of human resources for the Carborundum Company. He traveled to Europe, Japan, and South America to assess manufacturing



Clarence and Rachel Gray with past recipients of the Gray-Paxson Scholarship

plant effectiveness and quality and to negotiate labor details.

Clarence is retired and lives in Naples, Florida, with his wife, Rachel. He enjoys keeping tabs on his alma mater, meeting recipients of his scholarship, and receiving their thank-you notes. Clarence shared, "The joy of giving has been my driving force. I take great satisfaction in knowing that my scholarship will continue to leave an imprint on the lives of students even after the Lord has called me home."

Contact the Office of Gift Planning & Endowment

Letter
Office of Gift Planning and
Endowment
Cedarville University
251 N. Main Street
Cedarville, OH 45314

Phone
800-766-1115
Dave Bartlett or
Kim Longo
937-766-7628

E-mail
giftplanning@cedarville.edu

Encouraging Students to be Salt and Light

“Real education often comes not as a result of learning course material but, instead, from a change in perspective.” A professor’s comments on a college paper made a lasting impression on Larry Seawell ’81 — he was inspired to create a new scholarship for Cedarville University students.

The topic of Larry’s paper, assigned by longtime communications professor Dr. James Phipps, addressed how Christians could integrate a biblical perspective into every part of their lives.

Although Larry received an acceptable grade on his paper, Dr. Phipps encouraged him to think more critically about the issue. Rather than merely reiterating the class material, his professor wanted him to understand the importance of incorporating the Christian faith into his business career. Years later, the significance of this issue motivated Larry and his wife, Debbie ’80, to establish the Salt and Light Scholarship. “I have often wondered if Dr. Phipps had any idea how powerful that parenthetical would be,” shared Seawell.

The scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated academic excellence and biblical integration into their chosen fields of study. One business major and one communication arts major who exemplify these qualities will be selected each academic year.

The first recipients of the Salt and Light Scholarship are senior marketing major Bethany Streitmatter and senior communications major Andrew Kibelbek. Perhaps paying homage to Larry Seawell’s student experience, both recipients submitted essays explaining how they personally hope to integrate their Christian worldview into their professional career.

The following are excerpts from each student’s business ethics paper:

“The portrayal of women in advertisements is a pervasive and controversial issue. The issue becomes especially important when dealing with the portrayal of women in print advertisements in teen magazines because of the importance these magazines hold as a source of cultural authority to teenage girls. Once the aspects of unattainable beauty and women as sex objects are understood, the issue can be examined from an ethical framework. While the current portrayal of women may be viewed as ethical from a typical business approach — cultural relativism, or Utilitarianism — applying general biblical principles to the issue shows that the current portrayal of women in advertising is not ethical. This realization serves as a challenge to Christian marketers who must fight more popular ethical frameworks in their desire to do what is right.”

Bethany Streitmatter
Rensselaer, Indiana

Real education often comes not as a result of learning course material but, instead, from a change in perspective.

“Christian media practitioners must form a proper understanding of the media in which they work and the culture in which they operate. If the discourse of popular American culture is informed largely by images, we ought to find ways to engage it through images while challenging audiences to think on a deeper level than superficial entertainment. We ought to be on the lookout for compelling stories that contain biblical principles of grace, love, self-sacrifice, and faith — stories that can infuse these concepts into popular discourse. Rather than engineering ways to throw the Gospel onto the screen, we should seek the Gospel truths that manifest themselves as we write and produce high-quality narratives that capture the heart and the imagination, entertainment that reaches beyond the mere pursuit of pleasure and challenges its audience to entertain the truth.”

Andrew Kibelbek
Xenia, Ohio

(continued from page 2)

my heart for investing in people. With graduation behind me now, I am looking forward to a youth ministry internship in Los Angeles. Several of my friends are headed out into ministry as well. What I'm looking forward to most is — years from now — picking up the phone and connecting with that network of colleagues, finding out where God has planted them.

This has been an amazing experience to be part of such a close group, focused on God, sharpening one another spiritually. I have never experienced community like this.

May 2, 2006

Four years ago, I had never heard of Cedarville University. Looking back, I know that God directed me here.

Cedarville has been a wonderful opportunity for me to grow both academically and spiritually. One of my favorite professors, Dr. Frank Jenista, expects his students to go above and beyond. Through his comments on the numerous papers I had to write for his classes, he showed me a broader range to my academic abilities. Just when I thought I had peaked, he pushed me to go further.

A few weeks ago, I was sitting in my last chapel as a Cedarville student. I got thinking about my very first Cedarville chapel as a freshman, hearing Alistair Begg open the semester at the Fall Bible Conference. Chapel has been such an encouraging part of my experience here. My favorite speaker was Gracia Burnham, a former hostage in the Philippines. I'll never forget something she said; in fact I wrote it in my Bible: "If God calls you to be a missionary, don't you stoop to be a king." That statement is true no matter what God calls you to do.

Through everything that I have been involved in at Cedarville — forensics, Christian ministries, classes, friendships (so many friendships!) — everything has played a role in helping me refine and direct the steps I should take next, seeking nothing less than what the Lord has for me. From here, I plan to return home to Tennessee to work as a legal assistant in a law firm, and in January I leave to teach English in Asia. Cedarville gave me the opportunity to study abroad in Oxford and to go on an MIS trip to Russia — I guess I am just not done seeing the world!

I want to take just a moment to thank you for giving to Cedarville. During my time here, I was awarded an institutional grant, and I didn't even know where it came from! I stopped in to the financial aid office to ask what assistance might be available since my family had two students in college. Then, all of a sudden, I had \$1,500 in my student account. I didn't know whether it would be held over into the next year, and, when I returned the next year, the grant had been increased to \$3,000! These grants, along with scholarships, were an unexpected blessing, but so very helpful to me and my family, and I just want to express my appreciation.

Thank you for staying involved in Cedarville, you are an encouragement to students — now alumni — like me!

Sincerely,

Autumn West

Autumn West '06
B.A., History and Political Science
Greenback, Tennessee



Calendar of Events

www.cedarville.edu/calendar

May

- 29 Memorial Day
- 31-6/2 CCCU Technology Conference

June

- 2-3 SCBO women's conference
"Beautiful Feet"
- 7-9 Biology study group conference
"Exploring the History of Life"
- 12-16 Criminal Justice Camp
Centri-Kid Camp
- 12-30 Summer Session II
- 16-24 Child Evangelism Fellowship
Training
- 18-30 Summit Ministries Leadership
Conference
- 19-23 Writing, Premed,
and Debate Camps
- 25-30 SCBO's Super Summer
- 26-30 Nursing Camp

During the months of June and July, basketball, soccer, and volleyball camps will be offered for boys and girls. To learn more, please visit www.cedarville.edu/sportscamps.

Please Pray For:

Direction and guidance for our seniors who have recently graduated.

The health and safety of our Missions Involvement Services (MIS) teams as they work, travel, and minister abroad.

The camps that will be taking place on campus during the summer months. Pray that they will be a blessing and outreach to the many students who will be attending.

Contact Update By:

Letter

Annual Fund Office
Attn: Jennifer Clingan
251 N. Main Street
Cedarville, OH 45314

Phone

937-766-7801

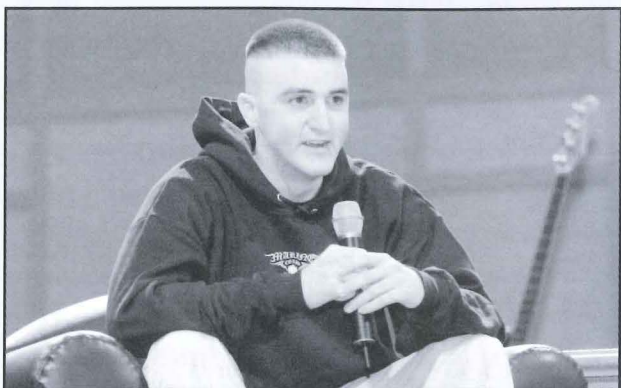
Fax

937-766-7704

E-mail

annualfund@cedarville.edu

Quotable Chapel Notes



Sophomore student, Specialist Andy Klein, served from January 2005 to January 2006 in Baghdad, Iraq, with the United States Army. He served with the 612th Engineer Battalion.

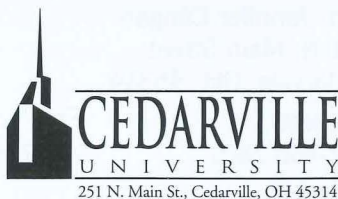
Every day we were searching for bombs. We had about 20 of them explode on our convoy, so we always had a little bit of excitement out there.

It was a pretty stressful time for me and my wife, Anna, but I can say the Lord definitely helped me through it. I don't know how other people can make it without Him because there were days I had a hard time getting up in the morning simply because of what I knew I had to go out and do.

I just know that I could not have made it without the Lord, my wife, and the Cedarville family. There were days I'd be so down, and I'd get an e-mail from someone I didn't even know. Dr. Brown even wrote me a note on my blog one day. Little things like that really cheer you up when you're out there.

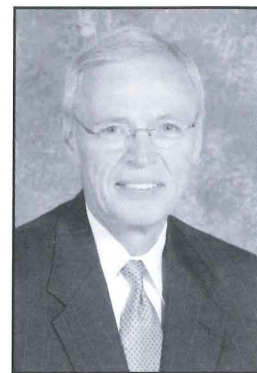
I don't know how anyone can ever be prepared for an experience like that. I went into it not really knowing what to expect. I was a sophomore at Cedarville when I was deployed, and my Cedarville family supported me. It was great to see how they responded in such a loving way with letters and care packages.

I learned a lot in my time over there. I learned that we really have it great in America. I take it for granted every day. I can go to class in complete safety, but those people go to work and school every day not knowing what might hit them. The main thing I'd like to say is to not forget what we have here. Don't forget that we need to share what we have and what we know about God with the rest of the world.



Q&A with

Bob Rohm Vice President for Christian Ministries



What is the scope of the Christian ministries programs at Cedarville?

- Community ministries involves 800-900 students.
- MIS involves 300-400 students.
- Discipleship ministries involves 600-700 students.
- Touring teams involve 40-45 students.
- ERAP (Educational Resource Assistance Program) involves another 30 Cedarville alumni teaching English in China.

What are the hallmarks of Cedarville's Christian ministries program?

Our chapel program is still the highest rated item on student satisfaction surveys. I am committed to keeping a high standard of quality in the 10 a.m. hour each day, and I am grateful for the resources we have to introduce students to excellent speakers.

Cedarville has 16 full-time staff providing local, national, and international ministry opportunities for students. We put a major emphasis on our ministries program, which strengthens the spiritual climate on campus.

How do you know whether the programs you provide make a difference?

Many of our graduates are working in vocational missions and ministry. Many more are active in local church ministries. In the last several years, Cedarville University has produced more candidates for missions organizations like ABWE than any other Christian college.

What are the greatest areas for opportunity in your division?

I would like to expand opportunities in women's ministries. We have a large number of women volunteering for ministry teams — I would love to have a woman on staff to further coordinate that.

I would also like to make MIS more available to students. It would be wonderful if every student could participate at least once on an international missions trip. Once you leave the country and experience the world outside of our culture, your perspective changes completely.

An opportunity for the future — we often get calls from churches looking for worship leaders. Cedarville has the opportunity to graduate men and women who are well-grounded in theology, music, worship, liturgy, technology — providing a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to worship.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love worshipping with our students each day in chapel — I love their passion and excitement. I have been blessed to work with great people in the Christian ministries division. We get along well together, we work well together, we trust one another, we pray for one another, we laugh together — this is a group of people who commonly want to glorify God and love students.